

Mrs. Tolin- 2014

The time has arrived where Mrs. Tolin's 8th grade students will begin conducting research. The writing style will be informative research pertaining to a person or organization that has created a legacy. The paper pertains to three subtopics relating to the major topic.

Similar to baking a cake or planning an elaborate meal, writing a research paper is a time and step intensive process. In this comprehensive writing unit, students will learn the process for writing a research paper, which includes:

- ☐ research, outlining and note-taking skills
- ☐ writing a bibliography
- ☐ developing a strong and informative thesis
- ☐ asking open-ended questions to guide research focus
- ☐ writing and thinking critically about rough drafts before completing the final research paper.
- ☐ learning and applying citation and paraphrasing methods to ensure proper acknowledgement of sources to avoid plagiarism.
- ☐ using transitional sentences to enhance writing cohesion
- ☐ writing from an objective third-person point of view
- ☐ incorporating quotes cohesively with paraphrased and summarized information
- ☐ providing support and development of main ideas

***Place a check mark in the box after you've mastered each skill.**

Research Purpose:

To develop an informative and cohesive research paper explaining the life of a person or organization that has created a lasting legacy (revealed through a 3-part thesis statement)

Note: A 3-part thesis statement is centered on research questions, such as:

- 1) What/who motivated or inspired the person or organization?
- 2) What adversities and struggles did the person or organization face?
- 3) What accomplishments has the person or organization gained, and how have they impacted society?

What you will need:

- ☐ flash drive/jump drive/Googledocs to save all electronic materials
- ☐ folder to keep handouts organized
- ☐ minimum of 40 note cards & 3 Bibliography Cards
- ☐ Zip lock sandwich bag to organize/keep note cards
- ☐ highlighters
- ☐ pen/pencil
- ☐ access to internet, library and/or periodical sources
- ☐ Student Research Packets/Handouts

Research Topic: Legacy

According to the MacMillan Dictionary, a **legacy** is "something that someone has achieved that continues to exist after they stop working or die."

Topic: Legacy

Minimum Requirements:

- 5 paragraphs (Intro, 3 body, 1 conclusion)
- typed, MLA format
- 40 notecards
- 3 bibliography cards
- rough drafts
- outline
- 3 sources (1 book, 1 web, 1 "other")
- works cited page

Topic:

Research about a person or organization that has created a lasting legacy (great lasting accomplishments/achievements that have impacted society).

#1. Introduction Paragraph:

Begin with a hook to catch your readers' attention (quote, question, statistic, etc.). Provide brief "background" about your main topic--the person or organization. Lead into other information such as: birth/death, location, educational background, and/or what makes this person/organization so special or interesting. **End with a thesis statement** that connects your main idea to the 3 subtopics you'll be discussing in your paper:

**Thesis
"Formula":**

This person (or organization) was/has been influenced/motivated by _____, struggled through/has had some/many adversities and challenges, leaving/using many accomplishments/lasting effects to/as his/her/their legacy.

Example: Bethany Hamilton was influenced by her family and her faith in God, struggled through many adversities caused by her shark attack, yet she used her accomplishments to inspire faith and hope *as her legacy*.

#2-4. Body Paragraphs: Use the questions below as a *guide* for what to include in each of your three body paragraphs. These will become the details for your subtopics (body paragraphs). Remember that each paragraph needs to be at least 7-10 sentences.

1st Body Paragraph: Influences	2nd Body Paragraph: Challenges/ Adversities while trying to accomplish goal	3rd Body Paragraph: Accomplishments/ Lasting Effects
Who inspired this person to do this work? (<i>What, How</i>)	What challenges or struggles did this person/organization face?	Is this person/organization's work still used/seen today? (<i>Where? How? Why?</i>)
What life event took place to inspire this person/ organization? (<i>When, Where</i>)	How did these challenges or obstacles interfere with this person/ organization's goals?	What else has been created or accomplished as a result of this person/ organization? (<i>How, Where, Since when?</i>)
When did this person/organization's passion first form? (<i>How, Why</i>)	Who/what helped them face these challenges? Were these challenges overcome? (<i>How, When, Where, By whom?</i>)	How has the legacy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shaped our history? • changed people's expectations? • laid innovative groundwork for the future ? • left a message or a change in thinking? • solved a problem?
	What did they learn from the challenges/adversities?	

#5. Conclusion Paragraph: Restate your thesis statement and "sum-up" what your paper is all about. Make sure you include a clear transition statement *and a restated thesis to start your paragraph*. The conclusion should be about 7-10 sentences in length (no shorter!)